

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A system for controlling a delayed shutter release function and comprising:

a camera (CAM) with a shutter and a shutter controller (SCC) for activating the shutter in response to an activation command (AC),

a processing unit (COM) being physically separated from the camera (CAM),

a user activateable shutter release button (HSRB; SSRB),
delay means (CD, DPU; CDU) for generating the activation command (AC) having a time delay with respect to an instant of activation of the shutter release button (HSRB; SSRB), and

a communication link (CL) for exchanging at least one control signal (SC, AC) between the camera (CAM) and the processing unit (COM) to control the delayed shutter release function.

2. (original) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the camera (CAM) comprises:

the shutter release button (HSRB),

a camera interface (I1) for supplying a first one of the at least one control signal (SC, AC) being a start command (SC) to the processing unit (COM) via the communication link (CL), and

a control means (CSG) for supplying the start command (SC) to the camera interface (I1) in response to the shutter release button (HSRB; SSRB) being activated,

the processing unit (COM) further comprises an processor interface (I2) for supplying a second one of the at least one control signal (SC) being the activation command (AC) to the camera (CAM) via the communication link (CL),

the processing unit (COM) being programmed for generating the time delay in response to the start command (AC) and for supplying the activation command (AC) to the processor interface (I2).

3. (original) A system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a display screen (DS),

the processing unit (COM) being programmed for:

displaying (COM) a shutter release button (SSRB) on the display screen (DS),

generating (COM) the time delay and,

supplying (COM) the at least one control signal (SC, AC) being the activation command (AC) via the communication link (CL) to the camera (CAM),

the camera (CAM) further comprises a camera interface (I1) for receiving the activation command (AC).

4. (original) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the camera (CAM) comprises:

the shutter release button (HSRB),

the delay means (CDU) comprising a countdown counter for starting a countdown operation in response to the activation of the shutter release button (HSRB; SSRB), and

status means (CDS) for generating the at least one control signal (SC, AC) being a countdown status information (CDSI) indicating the status of the countdown operation, and

the processing unit (COM) being programmed to generate feedback information (DA; ADA) providing the countdown status information (CDSI) to a user.

5. (original) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the processing unit (COM) is further programmed for generating feedback information (DA; ADA) providing a status of the countdown operation to a user.

6. (original) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the camera (CAM) is a web cam, and the processing unit (COM) is a computer.

7. (original) A method of controlling a delayed shutter release function in a system comprising:

a camera (CAM) with a shutter,
a processing unit (COM) being physically separated from the camera (CAM),
a shutter release button (HSRB; SSRB), and
a communication link (CL),

the method:

generating an activation command (AC) having a time delay with respect to an instant of activation of the shutter release button (HSRB; SSRB),

activating (SCC) the shutter in response to the activation command (AC), and

exchanging at least one control signal (SC, AC) between the camera (CAM) and a processing unit (COM) via the communication link (CL) to control the delayed shutter release function.

8. (currently amended) A camera (CAM) suitable for use in a system as claimed in claim 2, ~~3, or 4~~.

9. A processing unit (COM) suitable for use in a system as claimed in ~~any one of the claims 2 to 5~~ claim 2.